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National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center

Thomas Henry Tibbles papers - George Crook: Letters and Clippings, 1879, 1882

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of comfort, all of which have cost them much labor, and which they love and cling to as we do to our homes. They know that the war with Chief Joseph arose from this purpose to force him and his band away from his never sold lands in the Walla Walla valley. These Indians felt it most keenly and all the tribes sympathized with them. Runners have passed from tribe to tribe during twelve or fifteen months past, discussing among themselves their grievances, to bring all to a common purpose not to go to the new reservations, and not to give up their homes. They will, if pressed, fight and die in defense of their homes. These facts apply to fourteen reservations in this region.

How soon Mr. Hayt will issue an order and call for troops to force the Indians to move, no one can tell. That he will do it before his terms expires is certain unless the Indians in the meantime get a right to appeal to the courts for the protection of their property. When they get that, Mr. Hayt's power is ended.

Mrd. Hayt's administration of the Indian office has been distinguished for the two most causeless and cruel wars in the history of this country, for the constant violation of the plighted faith of the government to different Indian tribes, for malignant attacks upon the best officers of the army, for such cruel treatment of a friendly band of Indians that the courts interfered and take them out of his hands, and will go down to history as the persecutor of the Poncas, the murderer of the Cheyennes and the violator of the plighted faith of this government with the magnanimous, great and generous chief, Chief Joseph.

T. H. TIBBLES.

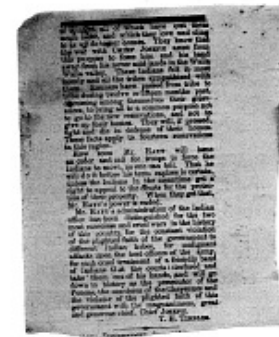
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